

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Figs. 5 and 6 and replaces the original sheet with Figs. 5 and 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 14 are amended, and claim 20 is added. Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found at least at canceled claim 3, paragraph [0024] of the specification, and at least at Figs. 8 and 9. Claims 11 and 14 are amended for dependencies. Support for new claim 20 may be found at least at paragraph [0033] of the specification. No new matter is added by this Amendment. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Personal Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Kramer in the April 21, 2009 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84 (P)(5) for failing to include the reference number "40" mentioned in the specification. This objection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, Applicants submit a new drawing showing reference number "40" in Figs. 5 and 6.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the Abstract for containing legal phraseology and objects to the specification for informalities. These objections are respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, the Abstract has been amended to replace "means" with "unit," and to have no more than 150 words.

Further, paragraph [0040], line 5, the reference number "563b" has been amended to recite "53b."

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,700,046 (Van Doren); rejects claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 9-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,155,773 (Ebbing) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,300,082 (Rogers); and rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ebbing in view of Rogers and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,513,848 (Shendon). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 3 and recites, "wherein each of the first and the second movable members has a pressing surface having a radius of curvature substantially equal to the radius of the substrate and facing the circumferential edge of the substrate from the radially outer side of the substrate, the pressing surfaces extending a wellness circumference of the imaginary cylinder in the substrate holding state."

As acknowledged by the Office Action, Van Doren fails to disclose this feature. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Van Doren is overcome. Applicants respectfully submit that Ebbing, Rogers, and Shendon, either alone or in any combination, do not cure this deficiency of Van Doren.

At page 3 of the Office Action, with respect to canceled dependent claim 3, the Office Action relies on Rogers as allegedly disclosing the above-recited feature. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that Rogers shows its movable members (216) as having an inner surface substantially complimentary to the outer circumference of the wafer being handled.

However, as discussed during the interview, the contact pad 216, with reference to Fig. 11, has a linear shape as opposed to having an inner surface substantially complimentary

to the circumference of the wafer being handled. Furthermore, the specification of Rogers is silent as to whether the shape of contact pad 216 is substantially complimentary to the outer circumference of the wafer being handled. Thus, Rogers fails to cure the deficiencies of Van Doren. Ebbing and Shendon do not cure the deficiencies of Van Doren and/or Rogers.

Claims 2, 5, 6 and 8-19 variously depend from claim 1. Because the applied references fail to anticipate or render obvious the features recited in independent claim 1, dependent claims 2, 5, 6 and 8-19 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features that they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

V. New Claim

Claim 20 depends from claim 1. Because the applied references fail to anticipate or render obvious the features recited in independent claim 1, dependent claim 20 is patentable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features it recites. For example, the applied references, either alone or in any combination, do not teach "wherein the length of the arc of the segment is about 60.227 mm."

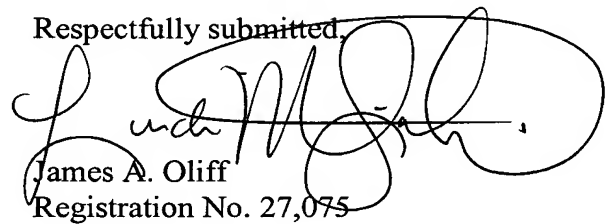
Accordingly, allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Substitute Abstract
Replacement Drawing Sheet

Date: May 1, 2009

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